

Claims

1-6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented) An easel, comprising:
a first hollow vertical support member including a first hollow interior and a first pulley assembly positioned completely within said first hollow interior;
a second hollow vertical support member including a second hollow interior and a second pulley assembly positioned completely within said second hollow interior;
a first horizontal support member secured directly to and extending between said first vertical support member and said second vertical support member and adapted to secure a first edge of an artist work piece thereto; and
a second horizontal support member secured directly to and extending between said first vertical support member and said second vertical support member and adapted to secure a second edge of an artist work piece thereto,
wherein said first horizontal support member is moved vertically on said first hollow vertical support member by said first pulley assembly and said second horizontal support member is moved vertically on said second hollow vertical support member by said second pulley assembly,
further comprising a third pulley assembly positioned within said first hollow interior and said first horizontal support member and a fourth pulley assembly positioned within said second hollow interior and said second horizontal support member, wherein said second horizontal support member is moved vertically on said first vertical support member by said third pulley assembly and is moved

vertically on said second vertical support member by said fourth pulley assembly.

8. (original) An easel according to claim 7 wherein said first pulley assembly is positioned in a top region of said first vertical support member, said second pulley assembly is positioned in a top region of said second vertical support member, said third pulley assembly is positioned in a central region of said first vertical support member, and said fourth pulley assembly is positioned in a central region of said second vertical support member.

9. (previously presented) An easel, comprising:
a first hollow vertical support member including a first hollow interior and a first pulley assembly positioned completely within said first hollow interior;
a second hollow vertical support member including a second hollow interior and a second pulley assembly positioned completely within said second hollow interior;
a first horizontal support member secured directly to and extending between said first vertical support member and said second vertical support member and adapted to secure a first edge of an artist work piece thereto; and
a second horizontal support member secured directly to and extending between said first vertical support member and said second vertical support member and adapted to secure a second edge of an artist work piece thereto,
wherein said first horizontal support member is moved vertically on said first hollow vertical support member by said first pulley assembly and said second horizontal

support member is moved vertically on said second hollow vertical support member by said second pulley assembly,

further comprising a rail sleeve slidably mounted on said first horizontal support member, said rail sleeve securing a first edge of an artist work piece from rearward movement relative to said first horizontal support member.

10. (original) An easel according to claim 9 further comprising a rail sleeve insert secured on said rail sleeve, said rail sleeve insert securing said first edge of said artist work piece from lateral movement along said first horizontal support member.

11-14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) An easel for supporting an artist work piece, comprising:

a vertical support member including an interior cavity;

a pulley system positioned completely within said interior cavity, said pulley system adapted for moving a horizontal support member on said vertical support member;

a horizontal support member secured to said pulley system and extending into said interior cavity of said vertical support member, said horizontal support member including an upper surface that defines a continuous flat expanse structured to support an artist work piece; and

a clamp that releasably secures said horizontal support member on said vertical support member.

16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) An easel according to claim 15 further comprising a brake block secured to said clamp and positioned within said vertical support member interior cavity.

18-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) An artist's easel, comprising:

a pair of vertical supports, each support including a cross section having a weight track and a horizontal support track;

a pair of horizontal supports each including a first end extending into said horizontal support track of one of said pair of vertical supports and each including a second end extending into said horizontal support track of the other of said pair of vertical supports;

first and second pulley assemblies positioned within both an interior cavity of one of said pair of vertical supports and one of said pair of said horizontal supports; and

third and fourth pulley assemblies positioned within both an interior cavity of the other of said pair of vertical supports and the other of said pair of said horizontal supports,

wherein one of said horizontal supports is secured to said first and third pulley assemblies for movement along said vertical supports, and wherein the other of said horizontal supports is secured to said second and fourth pulley assemblies for movement along said vertical supports.

22. (original) An easel according to claim 21 wherein said pair of vertical supports each define a depth, said easel defines a depth, and wherein said depth of said vertical supports is the same as the depth of said easel.

23. (currently amended) An easel for supporting an artist work piece, comprising:

a vertical support member including an interior cavity;

a pulley system positioned completely within said interior cavity, said pulley system adapted for moving a horizontal support member on said vertical support member;

a horizontal support member secured to said pulley system and extending into said interior cavity of said vertical support member, said horizontal support member structured to support a lower surface of an artist work piece;

a rail sleeve slidably mounted on said horizontal support member, said rail sleeve including an upwardly extending stop surface; and

a clamp that releasably secures said horizontal support member on said vertical support member.

24. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 15 wherein said horizontal support member is structured to immovably support an artist work piece when said horizontal support member is secured on said vertical support member by said clamp.

25. (new) An easel according to claim 15 further comprising a rail sleeve slidably mounted on said horizontal support member, said rail sleeve including an

upwardly extending surface structured to prevent a work piece from moving rearwardly off said horizontal support member.

26. (new) An easel according to claim 15 wherein said upper surface of said horizontal support member defines said continuous flat expanse along an entire length of said upper surface of said horizontal support member.

27. (new) An easel according to claim 15 further comprising an artist work piece including a flat lower surface, said flat lower surface positioned along its entire length on said continuous flat expanse of said horizontal support member.

28. (new) An easel according to claim 27 wherein said artist work piece comprises a flexible material secured on a rigid, rectangular frame.

29. (new) An easel according to claim 23 wherein said horizontal support member includes an upper surface that defines a planar surface along an entire length of said upper surface of said horizontal support member.

30. (new) An easel according to claim 23 further comprising an artist work piece including a flat lower surface, said flat lower surface positioned along its entire length on said horizontal support member.

32. (new) An easel according to claim 30 wherein said artist work piece comprises a canvas secured on a rigid, rectangular frame.

33. (new) An easel according to claim 30 wherein said artist work piece includes a back surface that contacts said upwardly extending stop surface of said rail sleeve.